

IN THE CLAIMS

The following is a complete listing of the claims, and replaces all earlier versions and listings.

Claim 28 (new): A communication apparatus for performing a ring type multi-address transmission by transferring received data to a next station, comprising:

- a receiving unit, adapted to receive data sent by a multi-address transmission;
- a storing unit, adapted to store the received data;
- a printing unit, adapted to print the stored data;
- a transferring unit, adapted to transfer the received data to the next station;

and

- an instruction unit, adapted to issue an instruction to execute a ring type multi-address transmission,

wherein, when the instruction is issued by said instruction unit, said transferring unit transfers the received data to the next station, after the received data is stored into said storing unit and is printed by said printing unit according to a manual instruction of an operator, and

before the received data is transferred to the next station without having been printed, information, which indicates a recommendation of printing of the received data before the received data is transferred to the next station, is notified to the operator.

Claim 29 (new): A communication apparatus for performing a ring type multi-address transmission by transferring received data to a next station, comprising:

- a receiving unit, adapted to receive data sent by a multi-address transmission;
- a displaying unit, adapted to display a presence or absence of received data;
- a storing unit, adapted to store the received data;
- a printing unit, adapted to print data;
- a transferring unit, adapted to transfer the received data to the next station;

and

- an instruction unit, adapted to issue an instruction to transfer the received data to the next station,

wherein, when said receiving unit receives data, said displaying unit displays the presence of the received data,

when the instruction is issued by said instruction unit, said transferring unit transfers the received data to the next station, and

when the instruction has not been issued by said instruction unit within a predetermined period of time, said transferring unit forcibly transfers the received data to the next station and said printing unit prints the received data and information that indicates the received data has been forcibly transferred to the next station.

Claim 30 (new): A communication method for performing a ring type multi-address transmission by transferring received data to a next station, comprising:

a receiving step, of receiving data sent by a multi-address transmission;
a storing step, of storing the received data;
a printing step, of printing the stored data;
a transferring step, of transferring the received data to the next station; and
an instruction step, of issuing an instruction to execute a ring type multi-address transmission,

wherein, when the instruction is issued in said instruction step, said transferring step includes transferring the received data to the next station, after the received data is stored in said storing step and is printed in said printing step according to a manual instruction of an operator, and

before the received data is transferred to the next station without having been printed, information, which indicates a recommendation of printing of the received data before the received data is transferred to the next station, is notified to the operator.

Claim 31 (new): A communication method for performing a ring type multi-address transmission by transferring received data to a next station, comprising:

a receiving step, of receiving data sent by a multi-address transmission;
a displaying step, of displaying a presence or absence of received data;
a storing step, of storing the received data;
a printing step, of printing data;
a transferring step, of transferring the received data to the next station; and
an instruction step, of issuing an instruction to transfer the received data to

the next station,

wherein, when said receiving step receives data, said displaying step includes displaying the presence of the received data,

when the instruction is issued in said instruction step, said transferring step includes transferring the received data to the next station, and

when the instruction has not been issued in said instruction step within a predetermined period of time, said transferring step includes forcibly transferring the received data to the next station and said printing step includes printing the received data and information that indicates the received data has been forcibly transferred to the next station.

Claim 32 (new): A storage medium which stores a program to be executed by a computer of a communication apparatus for performing a ring type multi-address transmission by transferring received data to a next station, comprising code for performing a method comprising:

a receiving step, of receiving data sent by a multi-address transmission;

a storing step, of storing the received data;

a printing step, of printing the stored data;

a transferring step, of transferring the received data to the next station; and

an instruction step, of issuing an instruction to execute a ring type multi-address transmission,

wherein, when the instruction is issued in said instruction step, said

transferring step includes transferring the received data to the next station, after the received data is stored in said storing step and is printed in said printing step according to a manual instruction of an operator, and

before the received data is transferred to the next station without having been printed, information, which indicates a recommendation of printing of the received data before the received data is transferred to the next station, is notified to the operator.

Claim 33 (new): A storage medium which stores a program to be executed by a computer of a communication apparatus for performing a ring type multi-address transmission by transferring received data to a next station, comprising code for performing a method comprising:

a receiving step, of receiving data sent by a multi-address transmission;

a displaying step, of displaying a presence or absence of received data;

a storing step, of storing the received data;

a printing step, of printing data;

a transferring step, of transferring the received data to the next station; and

an instruction step, of issuing an instruction to transfer the received data to the next station,

wherein, when said receiving step receives data, said displaying step includes displaying the presence of the received data,

when the instruction is issued in said instruction step, said transferring step includes transferring the received data to the next station, and

when the instruction has not been issued in said instruction step within a predetermined period of time, said transferring step includes forcibly transferring the received data to the next station and said printing step includes printing the received data and information that indicates the received data has been forcibly transferred to the next station.